

Fire Chief Study Committee Charge December 8 2022

The Fire Chief Study Committee has been formed by the Shutesbury Select Board in preparation for the retirement of Fire Chief, Walter Tibbetts. Chief Tibbetts has been Shutesbury's Fire Chief starting as part time and becoming full time, beginning in 1995.

Chief Tibbett's departure is a big change for the department and the community. The purpose of this committee is to look at the Chief's role in providing fire, safety, mechanical, administrative, emergency, training and medical services and how these services may be provided in his absence. Can any of these tasks be subbed out or are there others in the department that can perform these services? Has Chief Tibbetts completed tasks that do not have to be achieved in the future? Such tasks include the procurement of radios for the whole county and the emergency management plans that now only need to be updated. The Committee will look at other skills and services the Chief Tibbetts has provided. The Committee will make recommendations as to what structure is needed for the Fire Department (ie: Full Time Chief; Part Time Chief/Full Time deputy, etc) and the Chief's role in the transition.

The question is what is realistic to expect from a new chief, and how will that impact the department's ability to function?